

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 07788 211847Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12

/100 W

-----067643 211903Z /46

O 211820Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0046

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 7788

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG, FR, BE, US, SG, MO, IV, GB, TO, GW, UK

SUBJECT: PARIS MEETING ON PAN AFRICAN FORCE

REF: A. STATE 211443, B. STATE 203722, C. ABIDJAN 5783

(NOTAL), D. ABIDJAN 7285 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE GOIC WOULD FAVOR EFFORTS
TO LIMIT THE DURATION OF THE SHABA FORCE. IT WOULD
WANT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE FORCE, INCLUDING ITS PHASING
OUT, TO TAKE PLACE IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT. FOR AS LONG
AS FORCE CONTINUES IN PLACE AND WHENEVER IT TERMINATES,
WE EXPECT GOIC WILL NEED LOGISTIC AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.
END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 07788 211847Z

1. AS EMBASSY REPORTED REFTEL C, THE GOIC RELUCTANTLY
AGREED TO PROVIDE A MEDICAL CONTINGENT TO THE SHABA
FORCE ONLY AFTER MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING AND A SHARP
DEBATE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, AND WOULD PREFER TO LIMIT
THE DURATION OF THE FORCE. DESPITE HIS DEEP CONCERN
WITH THE SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA AND HIS CONTINUING
CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY SITUATION IN ZAIRE, IT IS FAIR

TO ASSUME THAT HOUPHOUET WILL BE WELL DISPOSED TO DISCUSSIONS THAT MAY PROVIDE A RESPECTABLE WAY TO REPATRIATE HIS PERSONNEL FROM ZAIRE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE RECENT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, WILL HAVE REINFORCED HOUPHOUET'S DISPOSITION.

2. WHILE GOIC WILL LIKELY WELCOME DISCUSSION ON FUTURE OF SHABA FORCE, IT WILL BE KEENLY SENSITIVE TO THE MANNER AND VENUE OF DISCUSSIONS. AFTER A RECENT MEETING WITH GISCARD, HOUPHOUET WAS ASKED BY JOURNALISTS IF HE HAD DISCUSSED NOTION OF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE WITH HIM. HOUPHOUET REPLIED THAT, "IT WAS NOT A PROBLEM THAT CONCERNED THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC. . . THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT AT THE ELYSEE THAT ONE DEALT WITH THE SUBJECT BUT AMONG AFRICANS AND IN AFRICA." (REFTEL D. PARA 6) FROM AN IVORIAN PERSPECTIVE, DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS ON THE SHABA FORCE SHOULD BEST BE HELD AND TAKEN IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT, PERHAPS IN RABAT OR DAKAR. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY OF A TWO-TIER APPROACH WHEREBY THE NON-AFRICAN PARTIES WOULD MEET IN PARIS TO DISCUSS THEIR SUPPORTING ROLES FOR THE SHABA FORCE, AND THE AFRICAN PARTIES WOULD THEN MEET IN AFRICA WITH APPROPRIATE NON-AFRICAN PARTICIPATION TO REVIEW THE PRESENT SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND IN THE REGION. THE NON-AFRICAN PARTIES -- PERHAPS WITH FRANCE AS SPOKES-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ABIDJA 07788 211847Z

MAN -- SHOULD IN ANY CASE CONSULT WITH THE AFRICANS BEFOREHAND ON THE SCENARIO TO BE MOUNTED.

3. FOR AS LONG AS SHABA FORCE CONTINUES IN PLACE, WE BELIEVE GOIC WILL NEED LOGISTIC AND OTHER ASSISTANCE. WHEN THE FORCE IS WITHDRAWN, IT IS LIKELY THE GOIC WILL AGAIN LOOK TO THE U.S. FOR AIRLIFT OF PERSONNEL FROM ZAIRE. FOR THE MOMENT, WE EXPECT GOIC TO CONTINUE LOOKING TO FRANCE FOR RESUPPLY. AT PRESENT, WE BELIEVE COSTS OF SHABA OPERATION TO GOIC AND PLANNED ROTATIONS, AUGMENTATIONS, OR PHASEDOWNS ARE AS FOLLOWS. THE GOIC MADE AN INITIAL EXPENDITURE OF APPROXIMATELY \$250,000 TOWARDS THE PAN AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA. THIS INCLUDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES, MILITARY VEHICLES, AND EQUIPMENT. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE RECURRING MONTHLY PERSONNEL SALARIES OR ONE-TIME ONUSES PAID TO PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL. WE BELIEVE PERSONNEL-RELATED COSTS AND SUPPLY-RELATED COSTS AVERAGE ABOUT \$100,000 PER MONTH. REPORTEDLY, THE IVORIANS HAVE DRAWN UP CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE AUGMENTATION OF THEIR MEDICAL CONTINGENT, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED EXCEPT IN EXTREMIS. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY

PLANS FOR ROTATION OR PHASEDOWN OF PERSONNEL IN THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS.
FRIEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABIDJA07788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-0699
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780840/aaaabgvw.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f10add5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 211443, 78 STATE 203722, 78 ABIDJAN 5783
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1670570
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARIS MEETING ON PAN AFRICAN FORCE
TAGS: MOPS, CG, FR, BE, US, SG, MO, IV, GB, TO, GE, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f10add5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014